

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Corporation of the Presiding Bishop, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Kansas

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Kansas. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings are federal and state censuses and indexes to them.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The Family History Library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:
UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
KANSAS - BIOGRAPHY
KANSAS, MONTGOMERY - VITAL RECORDS
KANSAS, SHAWNEE, TOPEKA - DIRECTORIES
- The *record type* you want to search, such as:
UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
KANSAS - BIOGRAPHY
KANSAS, MONTGOMERY - VITAL RECORDS
KANSAS, SHAWNEE, TOPEKA - DIRECTORIES

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- Kansas State Historical Society
6425 SW Sixth Ave
Topeka, KS 66615-1099
Telephone: 913-272-8681 Ext. 117
Fax: 913-272-8682

The Kansas State Historical Society has several important facilities for genealogists. The Reference Library houses printed materials and the Department of Archives maintains original records of Kansas government jurisdictions, newspapers, and other historical documents. The Manuscript Department has unpublished papers, maps, and photographs.

- National Archives—Central Plains Region
2312 East Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO 64131
Telephone: 816-926-6934
Fax: 816-926-6982
- Kansas Genealogical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 103
Dodge City, KS 67801
Telephone: 316-225-1951
- Kansas State Library
State Capitol Bldg.
Room 343 N
300 SW 10th
Topeka, KS 66612-1593
Telephone: 913-296-3296
Fax: 913-296-6650
- University of Kansas
Spencer Research Library—Kansan Collections
Lawrence, KS 66045-2800
Telephone: 913-864-4274
Fax: 913-864-5803

US/CAN
REF AREA
973
D 274
U-1
COPY 19

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Kansas counties, use the 14 inventories of county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. Copies of these inventories are at the Family History Library.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer

bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Kansas in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>
A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/>
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains some Bible records. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. It is partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family*

Records of the United States, vol. 2 (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

BIOGRAPHY

The Kansas State Historical Society and the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas have extensive collections of biographical material, but there is no statewide biographical index. You may also search the biographical sections of statewide, regional, and county histories. Some representative biographical encyclopedias are:

The United States Biographical Dictionary: Kansas. Chicago and Kansas City: S. Lewis & Co., 1879. (FHL book 978.1 D3u; film 874388.)

Kansas Pioneers. Topeka: Topeka Genealogical Society, 1976. (FHL book 978.1 D3t.)

CEMETERIES

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from Kansas cemeteries. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Inscriptions from headstones in hundreds of small graveyards in every county of the state are recorded in Don L. Ford, *Abandoned and Semi-Active Cemeteries of Kansas*, 3 vols. (Decorah, Iowa: Anundsen Publishing, 1983-85; FHL book 978.1 V3f).

Another collection of tombstone inscriptions is *Cemetery Records of Kansas*, 18 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1956-64; FHL book 978.1 V22; films 873686-90; fiche 6051176. The index is in FHL book 978.1 V22 index; film 1320674 item 42).

CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are found at the Family History Library and the National Archives and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information regarding these records.

The Family History Library has the federal censuses for the state of Kansas from 1870 to 1920. The 1890 census was destroyed.

A soundex (phonetic) index is available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses. The Family History Library also has a street index for Kansas City (FHL fiche 6331481) for use with the 1910 census.

Mortality schedules exist for the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. The schedules and indexes are available in book or microfilm format at the Family History Library and at the Kansas State Historical Society.

Territorial and State

The Family History Library has the 1860 federal census for the Territory of Kansas and parts of Colorado and an index.

Censuses taken by the territory and the state also exist for 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. The 1855 census sometimes lists all the members of the family, but in some cases gives only the head of household and number of family members. The later censuses give information on the entire household and, after 1875, include the county or state of former residence. The Family History Library has the 1855 to 1895 censuses on 305 microfilms. All are available at the Kansas State Historical Society.

The Family History Library has a published statewide index for 1855 and countywide indexes for other years. The State Historical Society has indexes to the 1855, 1860, and 1865 censuses, and to most of the 1875 census.

Voters censuses exist for 1856, 1857, and 1859 for some counties. The original records are at the Kansas State Historical Society. Many of these were printed in vols. 17-19 of *Kansas Kin* (see the "Periodicals" section of this outline).

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Kansas were the Methodist-Episcopal, Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Disciples of Christ. A brief history of the establishment of the various denominations is in Edward R. DeZurko, *Early Kansas Churches* (Manhattan, Kans.: Kansas State College, 1949; FHL book 978.1 A1 no. 35; film 928360 item 4).

The Family History Library has a few original church records for Kansas, such as files from the Jesuit missions and microfilm copies of records at the Presbyterian Historical Society. Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

Baptist

American Baptist—Samuel Colgate Historical Society
1106 South Goodman St.
Rochester, NY 14620
Telephone: 716-473-1740
Fax: 716-473-1740

Disciples of Christ

Disciples of Christ Historical Society
1101 19th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212
Telephone: 615-327-1444
Fax: 615-327-1445

Methodist

Baker University Library
606 Eighth Street
Baldwin City, KS 66006
Telephone: 913-594-8414
Fax: 913-594-6721

Memorial Library
Southwestern College
100 College Street
Winfield, KS 67156
Telephone: 316-221-8225
Fax: 316-221-2499

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
425 Lombard St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509

Roman Catholic

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas
Chancery Office
12615 Parallel Pkwy
Kansas City, KS 66109
Telephone: 913-721-1570
Fax: 913-721-1577

COURT RECORDS

Major Kansas courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

District courts have districtwide jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases, including divorces.

County courts have countywide jurisdiction over some criminal cases, including traffic violations, and minor civil cases.

Magistrate and city courts have citywide jurisdiction over minor criminal matters and traffic matters in some cities.

Supreme court serves as the statewide appellate court.

The Family History Library does not presently have copies of Kansas court records. Records are available at the clerk's office in the various courthouses.

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Kansas. For example, the Family History Library has:

- Kansas City
1860-1935 Beginning on FHL film 1376961; fiche 6044015
1940, 1945, 1959, 1964,
1972, 1975, 1979,
1980, and 1982 FHL book 978.139/K1 E4p
- Wichita
1878, 1883, 1885 . . FHL book 978.186/W1 E4w
1918, 1942,
1910, etc. FHL book 978.186/W1 E4p
1910 also on FHL film 1689397
- Suburban Wichita
1958, 1963, etc. . . . FHL book 978.186/W2 E4p

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

People

Kansas was considered part of the Great American Desert and did not attract white settlers until the 1850s. The early settlers generally arrived from the states of Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. Other families immigrated from the British Isles and Germany.

After the Civil War, many Union veterans settled in Kansas when the Homestead Act (1862) and other public laws opened the land for settlement. Many were from the Ohio River Valley (especially Kentucky and Tennessee) and from the Middle Atlantic and New England states. By 1870 many of the Indian tribes had been removed to what is now Oklahoma, although Potawatomi, Sauk, Fox, and Kickapoo Indians still live on small reservations in the state.

About 7,000 blacks from Tennessee settled in Cherokee County beginning in 1873, and several thousand blacks came from the lower Mississippi Valley states to Kansas City in the "Great Exodus" of 1879 and 1880.

The post-Civil War boom also attracted new settlers from overseas. Between 1870 and 1890, many Scandinavians and thousands of Germans from Russia joined the immigration to Kansas, as did smaller groups of Czechs and French. Settlement of Kansas progressed from east to west until by about 1890 all areas of the state had been settled.

Religious groups also established some of the early settlements in Kansas. These included Quakers, River Brethren, Dunkards and German Baptists, and Mennonites from southern Russia.

A new wave of immigration from other countries began about 1895 and continued until 1915. During this period, small groups arrived from Mexico, Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia.

Records

Most overseas immigrants came through east coast ports, especially New York. They then proceeded by railway inland to Kansas. Some earlier immigrants landed at the port of New Orleans and then took steamboats upriver to Kansas. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists or indexes of American ports for 1820 to 1940.

More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*. Further information on settlement patterns can be found in:

Robertson, Clara H. *Kansas Territorial Settlers of 1860 Who Were Born in Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1976. (FHL book 978.1 H2ro.)

Carman, J. Neale. *Foreign-Language Units of Kansas*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1962. (FHL book 978.1 F2c vol. 1.) Volume 1 is Historical Atlas and Statistics.

Records of major ethnic groups, including Czechs, Swedes, and Mennonites from Russia, are listed in the catalog under KANSAS - MINORITIES. Records of American Indians are listed under KANSAS - NATIVE RACES and in the Subject Search of the catalog under the names of the tribe.

GAZETTEERS

Several helpful guides to place-names in Kansas have been published, including:

Rydjord, John. *Kansas Place-Names*. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972. (FHL book 978.1 E2r.)

Baughman, Robert W. *Kansas Post Offices, May 29, 1828-Aug. 3, 1961*. Topeka: Kansas Postal History Society, 1961. (FHL book 978.1 E8b.)

Some Lost Towns of Kansas: and Extinct Geographical Locations. n.p.: Reprint of *Kansas Historical Collections*, vol. 12. (FHL film 874251 item 3.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. One major genealogical collection is the *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)*

Collection. This collection includes transcripts of marriage and death records, obituaries, and wills, as well as Bible, cemetery, and church records. The collection was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is on 20 films at the Family History Library (see KANSAS—GENEALOGY in the Family History Library Catalog). The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes.

The Kansas State Historical Society has biographical scrapbooks and records of early pioneers and a card index of various sources.

Genealogies compiled by descendants of Kansas settlers have been published in:

The Forgotten Settlers of Kansas. Vols. 1-17.

Topeka: Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies, 1983. (FHL book 978.1 D25f.) These volumes include applications and pedigree charts submitted for certification.

Rooney, Doris Dockstader, et al. *Kansas Genealogical Society Six Generation Ancestor Tables.* Dodge City, Kans.: Kansas Genealogical Society, 1976. (FHL book 978.1 D2r; film 1036302 item 12.) A second volume was published about 1989. (FHL book 978.1 D2s.)

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Kansas affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

- 1803 The United States acquired Kansas from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1804- United States government expeditions
1820 explored the Kansas region, reporting it to be an arid wasteland. The resulting myth of the Great American Desert discouraged early white settlement.
- 1821 The Santa Fe Trail across Kansas was opened. It served as a wagon road from Missouri to the Southwest until 1880, when the railroad was completed.
- 1827- The United States Army built forts and roads
1853 in Kansas for frontier defense and to protect trade along the Santa Fe Trail.
- 1830- Kansas was part of Indian Territory, where 20
1854 tribes from the east were relocated. The Indian Territory was closed to white settlement.
- 1854 The Kansas-Nebraska Act created two territories extending from the Missouri border westward to the tops of the Rocky Mountains and opened the area to white settlement.

Migration to Kansas was stimulated by rivalry between North and South over the slavery issue and over the choice of a railroad route to the Pacific.

- 1861 Kansas, with its present boundaries, was admitted to the Union as a free state.
- 1861- In the Civil War, over 20,000 of the 30,000
1865 Kansas men of military age served in the Union armed forces. Kansas suffered the highest mortality rate of any state in the Union.
- 1867 Many of the remaining Indian tribes agreed to leave Kansas and move to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. Indian skirmishes continued in Kansas until 1878.
- 1870- The post-Civil War boom brought thousands
1890 of settlers to build new railroads and to claim land under the Homestead Act.

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Kansas is John D. Bright, ed., *Kansas: The First Century*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1956; FHL book 978.1 H2k). This includes family and personal histories.

LAND AND PROPERTY

Federal Land Records

When the United States acquired the area that is now Kansas, most of the land became part of the public domain. Available land was surveyed by the government and could then be transferred to private ownership, a process called land entry. The first general land office in Kansas was established at Lecompton in 1856. The local offices kept tractbooks (records of land transactions in each section) and township plats (maps of land entries in each township).

After a settler completed the requirements for land entry by either purchase (cash entry) or homesteading, his case file was sent to the General Land Office in Washington, D.C. Here a patent, or first-title deed, was issued, transferring the land from government to private ownership.

To locate the land entry or homestead case file for your ancestor, you will need to know either the patent number or the legal description (range, township, section of the land). The county recorder of deeds may be able to tell you the legal description of the land from county land records. Or you may be able to locate his tract by searching the tractbook covering the approximate area.

Township plats, patent records, and copies of the tractbooks are available at:

The Wyoming State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
5353 Yellowstone
Cheyenne, WY 82009
Telephone: 307-775-6256
Fax: 307-775-6129

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003

The National Archives has the original tract books, plats, homestead entry files, and cash entry files.

Land Grants to Railroads

Large sections of land were granted to railroad companies, primarily to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad and to the Union Pacific Railroad. These two companies sold many acres of land to settlers through their own land offices. The Kansas State Historical Society has some records of the railroad grants.

County Land Records

After land was transferred from the government by sale or grant to private hands, it could be sold again, inherited, lost by foreclosure of a mortgage, or redistributed through a divorce. These transactions should be recorded by the county clerk in the form of deeds and mortgages. You can obtain copies of the documents by contacting the appropriate clerk's office in each county. The Family History Library is presently acquiring microfilm copies of the deeds in the county courthouses.

MAPS

The following statewide atlases may be helpful to you:

Baughman, Robert W. *Kansas in Maps*. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1961. (FHL book Q 978.1 E7br.) The history of the state is depicted in a variety of maps.

Official State Atlas of Kansas. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts, 1887. Reprint. Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies, 1982. (FHL book Q 978.1 E7o.) This includes many city plats, township maps, and directories of residents.

Socolofsky, Homer E., and Huber Self. *Historical Atlas of Kansas*. Norman, Okla: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972. (FHL book 978.1 E3s.)

The University of Kansas in Lawrence has the largest collection of maps in the state. Kansas State University in Manhattan also has a large collection. The Family History Library has a small collection of maps.

MILITARY

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library and the National Archives and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information regarding these records.

Civil War (1861-1865)

The Family History Library has the index to compiled military service records for Kansas soldiers who served in the Union Army (FHL films 881837-46). The service and pension records have not been filmed and are available only at the National Archives.

Additional military records were kept by the state government. The Kansas Adjutant General's records include correspondence, orders, rosters, lists of draftees, and discharges from 1861 up to World War II. These files are kept by the State Historical Society. A helpful guide is Eugene Donald Decker, *A Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Sources in the Kansas State Historical Society Pertaining to Kansas in the Civil War* (Emporia, Kans.: Kansas State Teachers College, 1961; FHL film 896829 item 3).

World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Kansas, see:

United States. Selective Service System. Kansas, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1643420.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records up to 1906 have been kept in the Topeka Office of the U.S. Circuit Court and by the clerk of the district court of each county. Some records from the Topeka Circuit Court were transferred to the National Archives—Central Plains Region in Kansas City, Missouri. This office also has U.S. District Court records from 1916 to 1966. The Family History Library has not acquired copies of naturalization papers for the state.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Central Plains Region or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

NEWSPAPERS

The Kansas State Historical Society holds one of the largest newspaper collections in the United States. They have almost every newspaper that was printed in Kansas (well over 61,000 volumes) and more than 12,000 out-of-state-volumes. These papers are in the Newspaper and Census Division, and many are on microfilm. The Family History Library has not collected copies of Kansas newspapers. A useful guide to Kansas materials is *History of Kansas Newspapers: 1854-1916* (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1916; FHL book 978.1 B3k; film 1036378).

PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for Kansas research are:

The Descender. 1968-. Published by the Montgomery County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 444, Coffeyville, KS 67337. (FHL book 978.193 B2g; vols. 1-3 on film 896537 item 6.)

The Heritage Genealogical Society Quarterly. 1971-. Published by the Heritage Genealogical Society, Wilson Co., Kansas, W.A. Rankin Memorial Library, 502 Indiana, Neodesha, KS 66757, Telephone: 316-325-3275, Fax: 316-325-3275. (FHL book 978.1925 B2h.)

Kansas Kin. 1963-. Published by the Riley County Kansas Genealogical Society, 2005 Claflin Rd., Manhattan, KS 66502-3415, Telephone: 913-565-6495. (FHL book 978.128 B2g; vols. 1-6 on film 874078 items 2-7.)

Midwest Historical and Genealogical Register.

1968-. Published by the Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1121, Wichita, KS 67201, Telephone: 316-264-3611. (FHL book 973 B2mg.)

The Pioneer. 1977-. Published by the Douglas County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 3664, Lawrence, KS 66044-0664. (FHL book 978.165 H25p.)

The Seeker. 1971-. Published by the Crawford County Genealogical Society of Southeast Kansas, % Pittsburg Library, 211 W. 4th St., Pittsburg, KS 66762. (FHL book 978.198 D25s; vols. 1-5, 8, pt. 4, 9-11, 12-15 on fiche 6048131.)

The Treeseacher. 1959-. Published by the Kansas Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 103, Dodge City, KS 67801-0103. (FHL book 978.1 B2t.)

PROBATE RECORDS

Kansas probate records have been recorded by the clerk of the probate division of the county court in each county. Kansas probate records include dockets, wills, letters, bonds, oaths, inventories, appraisements, claims, accounts, court orders, and final settlements. The Family History Library has published transcripts of records, such as indexes of Shawnee County (Topeka) for the years 1855-1915, and is presently acquiring microfilm copies of county records.

VITAL RECORDS

City and County Records of Births and Deaths

A few counties in Kansas began keeping records of births and deaths in 1885. These records may be obtained from the office of the county clerk.

Birth and death records are also available from many of the cities in the state. The beginning dates of these records vary from about 1910 to 1940. You can write to the city clerk for further information.

The Family History Library is presently acquiring copies of pre-1912 birth and death records at the county courthouses in southeastern Kansas. The library also has a few files from mortuaries and funeral homes.

State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in July 1911. Delayed registrations of births started in 1937. Copies of the state records may be obtained from:

Office of Vital Statistics
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
900 Jackson St
Topeka, KS 66612-1290
Telephone: 913-296-1400

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. You can also write to the Office of Vital Statistics (address above) for current information.

Marriage and Divorce Records

County clerks and clerks of probate courts have been keeping records of marriages since the creation of each county in the state. Some date from the mid-1850s. You can write to the clerk's office in the county where the license was issued. The Family History Library is presently acquiring copies of pre-1920 Kansas marriage records.

Marriage records since July 1913 have also been kept by the state. These may be obtained from the Office of Vital Statistics (see address above).

The district court in each county has had jurisdiction over divorces. Divorce information is interfiled with other court records. You can write to the clerk of the court for information. Since July 1951 a copy of the proceedings has been filed with the Bureau of Registration and Health Statistics.

Guide to Vital Records

A description of the history and availability of Kansas records is *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Kansas* (Topeka: Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 978.1 V2h; film 874348).

FOR FURTHER READING

Anderson, Robert D., ed. "Searching in Kansas." *Journal of Genealogy*, vol. 2 (May 1977), Omaha, Neb.: Anderson Publishing Co. (FHL book 973 B2jg.)

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created. See the chapter on Kansas.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

© 1988, 1997 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA
Second edition June 1997. English approval: 6/97

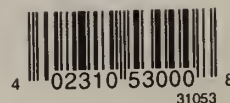
No part of this document may be reprinted, posted on-line, or reproduced in any form for any purpose without the prior written permission of the publisher. Send all requests for such permission to:

Copyrights and Permissions Coordinator
Family History Department
50 E. North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA
Fax: 801-240-2494

FamilySearch is a registered trademark of Intellectual Reserve, Inc. Family History Center, Family History Centers, Family History Library, and Family History Library Catalog are trademarks of Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

File: US—Kansas

31053





FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY



0301269

Utah Bookbinding Co SLC, UT 2/28/02 14